



State Flood Assessment

Texas regularly leads the nation as the state with the largest number of fatalities and financial losses due to floods. This distinction is a result of a combination of factors, including meteorology, geography, population, and infrastructure. In December 2015, the Office of the Governor and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) executed a memorandum of understanding “for purposes of preparing for a disaster, including installing a network of streamgages to enhance existing flood notification systems and making funds available to state and local entities for floodplain management.” The TWDB, with the support of state leadership and the legislature, has invested in a variety of programs to increase data collection, data dissemination, and studies to support improved flood forecasting and warning throughout Texas. More information about these existing programs can be found at www.twdb.texas.gov/flood and www.TexasFlood.org.

The next important step in preparing Texas to reduce the impacts of flood hazards is to develop a comprehensive understanding of existing programs, risks, and needs for floodplain management and mitigation across the state. The TWDB will accomplish this through the first statewide assessment of flood risk.

The State Flood Assessment, a report that will be completed by December 2018, will include a history of flooding in Texas; the roles of local, state, and federal agencies relative to preparing for, mitigating, and recovering from floods; a summary of planning and infrastructure needs; and stakeholder input on how flood planning should proceed in the state.

This first step toward developing comprehensive flood planning for Texas does not seek to fund specific strategies or projects related to flood planning, mitigation, warning, or recovery. Instead, this effort seeks to obtain and communicate information that will determine the need for and benefits of statewide flood planning and financial investment.

Several opportunities for input and engagement will be available throughout March and April 2018, including eight regional workshops, one-on-one meetings, water-related conferences, and an online survey. The online survey aims to gather information from the more than 1,200 floodplain managers in the state and other individuals that assist with flood planning on community-specific flood risks; current and planned flood planning, mitigation, and protection activities; and the financial needs tied to those activities, plus input

on policy considerations and future flood planning needs in Texas. In addition, a draft of the flood assessment report will be posted for public comment this summer.

To learn more about the TWDB’s State Flood Assessment effort and specific locations of stakeholder events, please visit www.TexasFloodAssessment.com or contact Dr. Mindy Conyers at mindy.conyers@twdb.texas.gov or (512) 463-5102.

Date	Event
March 1	Launch website and online survey; extensive outreach begins
March 6–9	30th annual Texas Floodplain Management Association spring conference in Marble Falls (booth)
March 27	Workshop: Austin, Lower Colorado River Authority’s Dalchau Service Center
March 29	Workshop: El Paso, El Paso Water’s Tech ₂ O Center
April 3	Workshop: Nacogdoches, Stephen F. Austin State University
April 4–6	49th annual Texas Rural Water Association conference in Fort Worth (booth)
April 5	Workshop: Lubbock, Texas Tech University Innovation Hub & Research Park
April 10	Workshop: McAllen, McAllen Public Library
April 17	Workshop: Arlington, North Central Texas Council of Governments
April 19	Workshop: Houston, Harris County Flood Control District
April 23–26	Texas Water 2018 conference in San Antonio (booth)
April 25	Workshop: Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi
April 30	Survey closes
July	Public comment period for draft State Flood Assessment report
December 1	Deliver final State Flood Assessment